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PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 9256-24 (153236)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re: Patent application of :
Thomas Kircher :
Serial No.: 09/944,338 :
Confirmation No.: 1860 :
Group Art Unit: 1742 :
Filed: August 31, 2001 :
Examiner: :
Andrew L. Oltmans :
For: METHOD FOR PRODUCING :
LOCAL ALUMINIDE COATING :

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97-1.98, the Applicants attach hereto a completed PTO Form 1449 (modified) and copies of the information cited therein. Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)(1) and (e)(1).

However, if a fee is due, please charge, or credit any overcharge to, Deposit Account No. 50-0573.

<p style="text-align: center;">CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)</p> <p>I hereby certify that this paper, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below, with sufficient postage, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.</p> <p>BY: <u><i>Patricia A. Rivera</i></u></p> <p>DATE: <u><i>February 6, 2003</i></u></p>
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The following references are noted as being potentially relevant to the subject matter of the present application.

U.S. Patent References

6,120,843

4,427,720

Foreign Patent References

France	1 134 753
Europe	0 837 153 A
Europe	0 984 074 A

As the examiner will see from the Annex to the European Search Report, the two EP references correspond to US 6,045,863 (Olson et al.) and US 6,110,262 (Kircher et al.), already of record in the present application.

Brief explanation of reference not in English

The European Search Report filed herewith classes FR 1 134 753 as "technological background" to claims 1, 7, and 8, and identifies the claim as the relevant passage. The claim is believed to read approximately:

A process of forming a surface alloy by gas-phase diffusion consisting of using the contributing metal in the form of compressed powder elements and disposing the said elements, adapting their shape if necessary, in such a manner that every point of the surface of the article to be treated is at a distance that is uniform and as small as possible from the contributing metal.

It is requested that the Examiner review the above-identified references and make them of record in the instant application as required by M.P.E.P. § 609. It is also requested that the Examiner initial the enclosed duplicate substitute form 1449 and return one copy to the Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS KIRCHER

BY: 

DANIEL A. MONACO
Registration No. 30,480
DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH
One Logan Square
18th and Cherry Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19103-6996
Telephone: 215-988-3312
Facsimile: 215-988-2757
Attorney for Applicant